

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A gardening glove for protecting the fingertips and fingernails
2 of a wearer's hand comprising:
3 a main body portion for reception of the wearer's hand and having
4 finger stalls for reception over the wearer's fingers;
5 compressible elastic foam held under compression within and by the
6 finger stalls at the distal ends thereof;
7 said foam having a horizontal slit therein of a length sufficient to
8 allow the foam to open for receiving the finger tip and finger nail of a wearer's hand
9 when inserted into the glove with the foam at the upper side of the slit overlying the
10 top of the finger tip and nail and the foam at the under side of the slit underlying the
11 bottom of the finger tip and nail;
12 said slit in the foam terminating sufficiently short of the extreme
13 distal end of the finger stalls that a foam cushion is disposed between the end of the
14 fingernail and the end of the finger stall whereby the finger tip and fingernail of a
15 wearer's hand inserted in the glove is protected from damage.
- 1 2. The glove of claim 1 wherein the foam at the upper side of the
2 slit which overlies the upper side of the finger tip and fingernail, is longer than the
3 foam which underlies the horizontal slit in the foam.
- 1 3. The glove of claim 1 wherein the compressible elastic foam is
2 squeezed together closing the slit in the foam when inserted into the finger stall and
3 held in compression therein for reception of the finger tip and finger nail of the
4 wearer of the glove.
- 1 4. The glove of claim 1 wherein the foam is adhesively secured to
2 the inside of the finger stalls.
- 1 5. The method of making a gardening glove comprising:
2 pressing into each finger stall of a glove body an elastic foam insert
3 having a transverse slit therein extending across the insert but terminating short of

4 the distal end with each insert oriented such that the slit is horizontal when the glove
5 lies in a horizontal plane;
6 the foam insert being sized in relation to each finger stall such that
7 the insert is held in compression by the finger stall and the slit held closed pending
8 insertion of a wearer's hand into the glove with the finger tips and fingernails
9 entering the slits.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein adhesive is applied to the insert
2 before it is inserted into its respective finger stall, and the adhesive is cured to
3 adhere the insert to the finger stall there within.